

## BOOK NOTICE.

*The Heteroptera or True Bugs of Eastern North America* by W. S. Blatchley. 1116 pages, 215 figures, 12 plates. 1926. The Nature Publishing Company, Indianapolis.

This is another hegemonic work on American insects by W. S. Blatchley, to whom entomologists are already indebted for his previous books on the Coleoptera, Orthoptera, and Rhynchophora written in collaboration with Mr. Chas. W. Leng. Containing as it does, descriptions and keys to over 1200 species, it fills a need that was only partly supplied by the Hemiptera of Connecticut and is a tribute to Mr. Blatchley's skill, knowledge and determination. With this manual the study of the Heteroptera should be greatly accelerated, as it is now no longer necessary for the student, unless he is a specialist and disagrees with some of Mr. Blatchley's opinions, to wade through the scattered literature in order to identify his species. Mr. Blatchley says his manual "has been prepared mainly for the use of the tyro," but we are all abecedarians outside of our own, usually restricted, fields. When the author deviates from the tracks of his predecessors, this is noted either in the text or footnotes, with reasons. In addition to the descriptions and keys, numerous notes deal with habits, food plants, localities, dates and general distribution, special attention being given to the Heteropterous faunas of Indiana and Florida. With the exception of some thirty pages devoted to external structures, general habits, methods of collecting, etc., the entire work is a descriptive catalogue of the order, a broad survey covering the entire field. In these days of intense specialization few entomologists become proficient in even the classification of a single order of insects and all the more credit is due Mr. Blatchley for the successful culmination of what at times, must have declined, in spite of his professional interest, into mere drudgery. Systematic entomology will always appear chaotic and uninspiring to the uninitiated until there are more works of this kind, leading into the wilderness of literature and opinions.

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